Notice of Availability for the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Proposed Moapa Solar Energy Center, Clark County, NV

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have completed their Records of Decision (RODs) for the proposed Moapa Solar Energy Center on the Moapa River Indian Reservation, Clark County, Nevada. This notice also announces that the RODs are now available for public review.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the RODs are available upon request from: BIA Western Regional Office, 2600 North Central Avenue, 12th Floor, Suite 210, Phoenix, Arizona; BIA Southern Paiute Agency, 180 North 200 East, Suite 111, St. George, Utah; and the BLM Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada. The RODs are also available on line at: www.MoapaSolarEnergyCenterElS.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information you may contact either Mr. Charles Lewis, BIA Western Regional Office Branch of Environmental Quality Services, 2600 North Center Avenue, 4th Floor Mail Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004-3008; telephone: (602) 379-6750; fax (602) 379-3833; email: charles.lewis@bia.gov; or Mr. Gregory Helseth, Renewable Energy Project Manager, BLM Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130 or email ghelseth@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a 200 megawatt (MW) solar electric generation facility, water line, and associated infrastructure on the Reservation, and obtain a right-of-way (ROW) grant on BLM land for a 230 kV and 500 kV transmission line and associated access roads. The primary need for the Proposed Project is to provide land lease income, sustainable renewable resources, new jobs and other benefits for the Tribe by using solar resources on Reservation lands. A secondary need for the Proposed Project is to assist utilities in meeting their renewable energy goals by providing electricity generated on Tribal lands that are efficiently connected to the transmission system in a way that minimizes adverse impacts.

The proposed Federal action is the BIA approval of a solar energy ground lease and agreements entered into by the Tribe with Moapa Solar LLC (Applicant), and approval of ROWs and easements for the Applicant to construct, operate, and maintain an upto 200 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility and water pipeline on the Reservation. The proposed Federal action also includes the BLM approval of ROWs for the 230 kV and 500 kV transmission lines and access roads on BLM-administered Federal land, and the BLM approval of ROWs for the portions of the 500 kV transmission line and water pipeline located within an existing utility corridor located on the Reservation.

The BIA and BLM have each issued a ROD to document their decisions on the land lease and ROW applications under their respective jurisdiction.